



APPENDIX 1

Sample Position Description: Community Researchers



COMMUNITY RESEARCHER—POSITION DESCRIPTION

BRIEF PROJECT OVERVIEW

Community Partnering is an initiative to foster community and economic development initiatives based on skills, resources and assets that already exist in the Latrobe Valley. The main emphasis is on the strengths and capabilities of groups who have been hard hit by economic change (like unemployed youth, retrenched workers and sole parents).

Three people will be employed over 35 weeks, working 21 hours a week with groups like retrenched workers, unemployed youth and sole parents identifying skills and talents, and generating ideas for community based initiatives.

POSITION GOAL

This position involves working as a member of a project team, contributing to a process of community and economic development by initially identifying the skills, talents and resources that already exist in the people, organisations and towns of La Trobe Shire.

KEY TASKS (Training will be provided for each of these tasks)

As part of the Community Partnering Project team the position involves:

1. Working with targeted groups across the La Trobe Shire to identify skills, talents, resources and ideas for community based initiatives.
2. Identifying other resources in the La Trobe Shire, such as community, business and government organisations, that could contribute to the development of community based initiatives.
3. Assembling the information from Tasks 1 and 2 (above) and presenting it at a series of community workshops.
4. Assisting the development of community based initiatives.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE (Key Selection Criteria)

1. Familiarity with and commitment to people who have been hard hit by economic change in the La Trobe Shire (such as unemployed workers and young people, and sole parents).
2. Ability to work with people from different groups and different communities.
3. Highly motivated, displaying a high degree of enthusiasm and initiative.
4. Capacity to work effectively in a team environment.
5. Strong interpersonal skills.
6. Basic computer skills.
7. Commitment to learning new skills.



APPENDIX 2

Sample Portrait of Gifts and Brochure Reporting Results

The Portrait of Gifts is adapted from:

Kretzmann, John; McKnight, John; and Sheehan, GERALYN (with Mike Green & Deborah Punttenney), 1997, *A Guide to Capacity Inventories: Mobilizing the Community Skills of Local Residents*, Asset-Based Community Development Institute, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University, Illinois.



Community Partnering

PORTRAIT OF GIFTS

Every individual has gifts. Gifts of the head, hand and heart. You may have a talent for figuring out how things work (head) or a knack for fixing things (hand) or even a keen interest in the environment (heart). The Community Partnering project is about identifying people's gifts, changing the perceptions people have of "the Valley", and creating opportunities for and supporting new community based projects and initiatives.

The information you give us may be presented at community workshops to demonstrate the range of skills that people in the Latrobe Valley have. No personal identifying information about you will be used at these public events. The workshops are for building connections with other people in the community and developing ideas for tangible projects and initiatives. You might even like to come along and share your ideas, and become involved in some of the proposed projects!

Your help in filling out this capacity inventory will be invaluable to the success of the project.

I am happy for the information I provide to be presented at community workshops (I understand that no personal identifying information will be presented).

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Community Networker: _____

*I have gained these skills through my experience at work, home or other environment
(eg, volunteer work, community group).*

Please tick appropriate box/boxes

Child Care and Parenting Skills	
1.	Caring for Children
a.	Children under 1 year
b.	Children 1 year to 6 years
c.	Children 7 years to 13 years
2.	Caring for children with special needs
3.	Caring for a child (not your own) overnight
4.	Caring for sick children
5.	Having a special relationship with a child not in your family
6.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Transportation	
1.	Driving a car
2.	Driving a bus
3.	Driving a commercial truck
4.	Driving a tractor
5.	Backing a trailer/caravan
6.	Furniture removal
7.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Mechanical and Electrical Skills	
1.	Repairing small appliances (eg TV, toaster)
2.	Repairing major appliances (eg washing machine, refrigerator)
3.	Repairing lawnmowers/small engines
4.	Repairing motor vehicles
5.	Other mechanical skills (please specify):
6.	Electrical skills (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Please tick appropriate box/boxes

Safety and Security	
1.	State Emergency Services or Fire Fighting/CFA
2.	First Aid Skills
3.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Health Care and Welfare	
1.	Running errands, shopping or driving for someone who needs transportation
2.	Listening to or giving support to someone who needs to talk about their problems
3.	Helping a person or family with medical problems
4.	Providing respite or live in care for more than 24 hours
5.	Helping a person or family with juvenile delinquency, probation, prison or legal problems
6.	Visiting or calling the "home bound" or lonely
7.	Giving food, clothing, money or household items to a family in need
8.	Caring for the elderly
9.	Caring for people with mental illnesses
10.	Caring for the sick
11.	Caring for people with physical or intellectual disabilities
12.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Horticultural/Agricultural	
1.	Lawnmowing
2.	Gardening
3.	Farm skills
4.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Please tick appropriate box/boxes

Education and Youth Activities	
1.	Organising games/activities for children or teenagers
2.	Involvement with sports teams for children or teenagers
3.	Reading or story telling to children or teenagers
4.	Listening to a child read aloud
5.	Helping in a classroom
6.	Providing some kind of other support for the school, (eg, fundraising, school canteen or tuckshop) (please specify):
7.	Sharing computer skills with others
8.	Sharing other skills with or tutoring an individual or group (please specify):
9.	Other (please specify):
Organisational Skills	
1.	Leading recreation activities (please specify):
2.	Organising a party or special event
3.	Telephoning a list of people to invite them to participate in something
4.	Other organisational skills (please specify):

Work	Home	Other
Work	Home	Other

Computer skills	
1.	Using a computer. Please specify the programs you are most familiar with:
2.	Word processing
3.	Entering information into a computer
4.	Computer programming
5.	Internet skills
6.	Other computer skills (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Please tick appropriate box/boxes

Food/Catering/Hospitality	
1.	Baking
2.	Bartending
3.	Butchering
4.	Cake decoration
5.	Meal preparation for less than 10 people
6.	Washing dishes for more than 10 people
7.	Menu planning for more than 10 people
8.	Clearing/setting tables for more than 10 people
9.	Preparing meals for more than 10 people
10.	Serving food for more than 10 people
11.	Operating commercial food preparation equipment
12.	Knowledge of Food Handling Regulations
13.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Administration/Office Skills	
1.	Writing letters
2.	Filing or typing
3.	Making a budget
4.	Keeping records of all your activities
5.	Filling out forms
6.	Answering phones and taking messages
7.	Writing business reports
8.	Keeping track of supplies/inventories
9.	Bookkeeping or accounting
10.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Arts and Crafts	
1.	Drawing or painting
2.	Sculpture
3.	Ceramics and pottery
4.	Leatherwork
5.	Knitting or crocheting
6.	Patchwork, quilting or needlework
7.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Please tick appropriate box/boxes

Construction and Maintenance Skills	
1.	Housepainting (please circle—external / internal)
2.	Wallpapering
3.	Tile work
4.	Plastering
5.	Concrete
6.	Bricklaying
7.	Plumbing
8.	Insulation
9.	Floor covering
10.	Building room additions
11.	Cabinet making or furniture making
12.	Other construction or maintenance skills (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Cleaning and Other Household Chores	
1.	Gutter cleaning
2.	Washing windows
3.	Cleaning carpets
4.	General household cleaning
5.	Rearranging furniture or equipment
6.	Fixing leaky taps
7.	Cutting firewood
8.	Interior decorating
9.	Washing and cleaning cars
10.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Music, Theatre and Film	
1.	Theatre directing/production/props
2.	Acting
3.	Dancing
4.	Singing
5.	Playing an instrument
6.	Teaching instruments
7.	Photography or videoing
8.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Please tick appropriate box/boxes

Literacy and Language	
1.	Creative writing
2.	Other forms of writing (please specify):
3.	Familiarity with a language other than English (please specify):
4.	Ability to speak another language
5.	Ability to understand another language
6.	Ability to read another language
7.	Ability to write in another language
8.	Ability to act as an interpreter
9.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Pet Care/Animal Husbandry	
1.	Grooming
2.	Training
3.	Exercising
4.	Breeding
5.	Milking
6.	Shearing
7.	Drenching
8.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Other	
1.	Hairdressing
2.	Certified swimming instructor
3.	Sewing/dressmaking/tailoring
4.	Graphic design
5.	Other (please specify):

Work	Home	Other

Do you have any other hobbies or skills that have not been mentioned?

Do you have any skills that you would like to share?

Are there any skills you would like to learn?

Is there anything that you feel passionate about, eg, the environment, motor cars, cultural heritage, animal welfare?

Have you ever operated a small business or thought about starting one? Please give details.

Have you ever participated in or thought about alternative forms of business (eg, co-operatives, bartering groups, community credit schemes)? Please give details.

Have you ever been a volunteer in a community-based organisation? (eg, Neighbourhood Watch, sports groups, charitable organisations, church groups, scouts)? Please give details.

Have you ever contributed to your community or your neighbourhood in an informal way (eg, building a community playground, Clean Up Australia Day)? Please give details.

Are there any community projects you'd like to become involved in?

Do you have any ideas for community-based projects for the Latrobe Valley? Please give details.

Your ideas are invaluable. Please provide any comments.

Thank you for helping us by completing your Portrait of Gifts. We would like to keep you up-to-date with the project, particularly by inviting you to a community workshop where you can share your ideas with other people.

Please complete this section if you would like us to keep in contact with you. (This information will only be used for the Community Partnering project).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____





**Everyone in the Latrobe Valley has
skills, talents and ideas.**

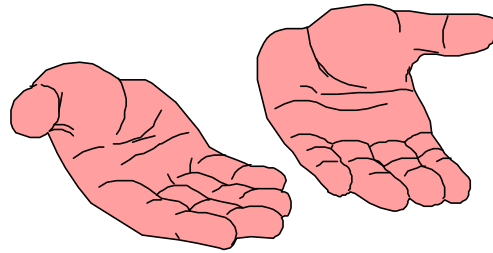
Over 50 people have filled out a Portrait of Gifts to tell us about their skills, talents and ideas. These include people from TAFE Numeracy and Literacy classes, Moe Lifeskills Group, SCOPE and Moe Men's Group.

The information is being used to:

- *Bring together diverse groups of people; and*
- *Build community-based initiatives.*

*For more information contact
Yvonne, Stephen or Leanne on 5136 9270*

GIFTS OF THE HAND



- Almost ½ the people who filled in a Portrait of Gifts have mechanical or electrical skills like fixing household appliances.
- ¾ have computer skills.
- Over ¾ have construction and maintenance skills, ranging from housepainting to furniture-making to concreting.
- Over ¾ have lawnmowing or gardening skills.
- Over ½ have art and craft skills, like drawing, painting, ceramics, pottery and leatherwork.
- People's hobbies and interests include:

dancing	basketball
lead lighting	darts
tai chi	fishing
restoring old film equipment	

The Latrobe Valley—A Skillful Community

GIFTS OF THE HEART

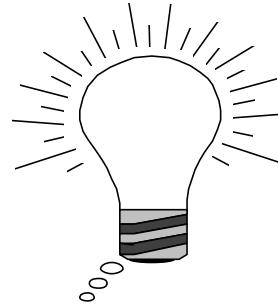


- Over ½ the people who filled in a Portrait of Gifts give food, money or household items to families in need.
- Over ½ run errands, shop or drive for people who need transportation.
- Nearly ½ help with children’s sports teams.
- Over ¼ help out in school classrooms.
- Nearly ¾ listen or give support to people who need help.
- Nearly ½ have first aid skills.
- Some of the things that people care deeply about are:

the environment	family histories
care of the elderly	recycling
opportunities for the young	

The Latrobe Valley—A Caring Community

GIFTS OF THE HEAD



- Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people who filled in a Portrait of Gifts listen to children reading aloud.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ have shared a skill with someone else.
- Over $\frac{1}{4}$ have creative writing skills.
- Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ have shared computer skills with someone else.
- Some skills people would like to learn are:

furniture restoration	internet skills
sewing	tv and computer repairs
first aid	organisational skills
creative writing	leadership skills
- Some skills people would like to share with others are:

woodwork	sewing and dressmaking
photography	

The Latrobe Valley—A Learning Community



APPENDIX 3

Sample Brochure of Community Projects



WHAT ARE COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS?



When communities draw on their own resources they can respond to issues in exciting new ways.

Community Partnering supports innovative community responses:

- *voluntary initiatives
- *co-operative enterprises
- *financing alternatives
- *not-for-profit initiatives
- *self-employment & small business



Community Partnering is funded by La Trobe Shire Council, Department of Education, Training & Youth Affairs (Australian Research Council) and Monash University, with support from Australian Paper and Loy Yang Power.

For more information contact 5136 9270

Voluntary initiatives.....



The local community, with support from small and large businesses and the La Trobe Shire Council, builds a community playground.

A local park in Morwell has few facilities.



Retrenched and retired workers establish a tool library where people on low incomes can borrow tools and obtain advice about household repairs. Tools are donated by local businesses and people also donate broken tools that can be used for parts.

Retrenched and retired workers have skills they want to contribute to their community.

Groups of single mothers meet once a week to cook meals. The meals are eaten fresh, or frozen for use later. The mothers contribute money each week and local businesses give discounts.



Single mothers struggle with the demands of cooking for their children every night.

Through Technical Aid for the Disabled people with varying levels of skill volunteer to build customised devices. Disabled people are charged only for the materials. Groups like Rotary and Lions help with donations.



People with disabilities need customised devices to help them with everyday life.

Co-operative enterprises....



The community responds by forming the Yoeval Community Hospital Co-operative Ltd. They raise money for expanded health and aged care services. The Co-operative has over 250 shareholders.

A public hospital in a small town in Central New South Wales is closed.



Families are assisted by a local community group and businesses to build large backyard fishtanks. Sun-fish are bred for home consumption or market sale. A group of families form their own co-operative as a way of increasing market production and generating employment.

A local community has high levels of poverty and few employment opportunities.

The Mirboo North Newspaper Co-operative is formed. Over 50 people contribute each week to the publication of the paper. With the closure of the last bank branch a co-operative has formed to provide financial services in conjunction with Bendigo Bank.



A local newspaper in Gippsland is threatened with closure.

Financing alternatives...

A group of farmers collectively manage a sheep flock on behalf of the local health service. The yearly wool cheque is used to help support the health service.



Funding for local health services in a small town in Western Victoria is cut.



Over 110 young people each contribute a minimum of \$12 and form their own credit union. A group of young unemployed people who are members of the credit union borrow money to start their own baseball cap and t-shirt printing business. Local businesses help with supplies and equipment.

Young people find that financial institutions are not responsive to their needs.



In New Zealand, the Dunedin YWCA sets up the Angel Fund to lend small amounts of money to women on pensions and benefits. Money is donated to the fund or lent by individuals and businesses.

Women on pensions and benefits cannot borrow money from financial institutions.

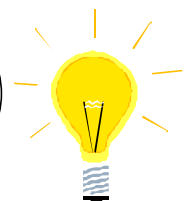
Not-for-profit initiatives...

Work Focus Inc. runs a range of initiatives, eg, retired workers train young people at risk of homelessness in woodworking skills; people on a 'work-for-the-dole' program rebuild a pearling lugger; and local artisans are helped to become self-employed. Support comes from large corporations and all levels of government.



High levels of unemployment follow the restructuring of the power industry in the Latrobe Valley.

Fig Tree Community Garden is established on vacant Council land. People with disabilities, older people, children and others grow vegetables and flowers. People on Community Service Orders assist. In order to become self-financing herbs will be grown commercially.



In Mooroopna via Shepparton people with disabilities want to be more active in their community.

Self-employment & small business developments....



A high school student organises dance parties and books local bands. The young person is now a music promoter and band manager in Dandenong, employing 9 young people full-time and another 100 part-time and casually.

There are few dance venues in Dandenong for young people interested in alternative music.



A local saw miller in Yarram comes up with an idea for a new milling technology that makes it cost effective to grow and harvest native timbers. The timber is used in award-winning buildings, and the technology is being exported overseas.

Local environment groups are concerned about the spread of pine plantations and the cutting down of old growth forests.



APPENDIX 4

Sample Program for a Mini-Workshop



The following program was used when three Numeracy and Literacy classes from across the Latrobe Valley came together for a pizza lunch. The three classes had never met each other. Over activities like cutting up tomatoes, grating cheese, slicing ham and peeling mushrooms people from the different classes started to interact. When it was time to put the toppings on there was a lot of laughter. Who wanted to share a pizza with pineapple? Were there any takers for anchovy? People started to make connections based on their food preferences. Other differences (like being from a different Numeracy and Literacy class, being of a different cultural background, or being a different age or gender fell away.

Once the pizzas had been eaten a community researcher (Yvonne) and an academic researcher (Jenny) led the group through the following workshop:

WORKSHOP

NUMERACY AND LITERACY CLASS

- 1. Thank everyone for coming and joining in the pizza lunch. (Yvonne)**
- 2. Provide an update on Community Partnering. (Yvonne)**

People as the Primary Resource

- Give some feedback of Portrait of Gifts and draw attention to:
 - ◊ Gifts of the Hands (Latrobe Valley—a skilful community)
 - ◊ Gifts of the Heart (Latrobe Valley—a caring community)
 - ◊ Gifts of the Head (Latrobe Valley—a learning community)
- The portrait of gifts is a way of showing how people are the primary resource or asset of the Latrobe Valley.

See
Appendix 2

Physical Resources

- Provide examples of the physical resources that are available for community initiatives (e.g., the flats, house, land, kitchen and hall at St Lukes; the welding equipment, photography equipment and developing room at Work Focus).

Business Resources

- Talk about some of the ways that businesses contribute to community projects (e.g. the restaurant that donates “waste” scraps to a worm farm, the hardware store that provides bbq facilities to groups for fund-raising).

Summary of the Community Partnering project:

- The project aims to bring people, physical and business resources together to develop community-based projects.
- Funded for 2 years to assist groups develop community-based projects.

3. Examples of community-based projects from other places. (Jenny)

Fig Tree Community Garden

- Located in Mooroopna outside of Shepparton
- Started as an activity for people with physical disabilities, but quickly grew to involve many groups in Mooroopna (older people, Scout and Guide groups, kindergarten children, and other local residents).
- Currently 85 people between the ages of 2 and 80 use the garden each week (town has population of 6,500 people).
- Garden activities include herbs, vegetables, flowers, composting of food scraps, recycling of plastics (for seedlings), water conservation (uses roof runoff for water).
- What were the steps to get the garden started?
 - ◊ Early 1997, Council provided access to the land; people on Community Service Orders cleared the block; and someone from the Neighbourhood House started working on the project 3 hours/week
 - ◊ April 1997, first gardening group started
 - ◊ August 1998, officially opened
 - ◊ 1998, won a State Award in the National Bank Community Awards, and awarded Special Commendation in the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards.

4. Other ideas for community-based projects. (Yvonne, with support from Jenny)

- Whiteboard/brainstorm other ideas that people have (looking for possibilities, not for problems and obstacles)
- If necessary, prompt with the ideas that the classes have already talked about:
 - ◊ Tool library
 - ◊ Home maintenance project
 - ◊ Car maintenance project

5. What to do with these ideas. (Yvonne, with support from Jenny)

- Let the group know about the larger workshop that they are invited to. The workshop will bring together people from other groups like Lifeskills, the Men's Group in Moe, people who do classes at the Neighbourhood Houses, and people from SCOPE classes.

- There are three ways forward for the ideas from today's small workshop:
 - ◊ Present our ideas to the larger workshop
 - ◊ If there are projects people are really interested in, we can get more information together, or even invite someone involved in a project (like Fig Tree Community Garden) to talk at the larger workshop
 - ◊ Maybe some people would like to be identified with an idea now, and would like to get together to talk about the idea more before the bigger workshop.

The Numeracy and Literacy classes decided they wanted to find out more about community gardens at another workshop; and a small group was interested in meeting again to talk more about a car maintenance workshop. People from the other groups that the Community Researchers were working with were also interested in community gardens so a workshop called 'How to create a community garden' was organised (see pages 101-102). This led to the establishment of a community garden and several people who were involved in the initial discussions on the pizza-making day are now members of the Committee of Management of the garden (see pages 115 to 118).

With the support of a Community Researcher the group interested in a car maintenance workshop held several meetings and then met with people who taught car maintenance at TAFE and other adult education classes. There was a lot of interest in the idea, particularly from young people. However, the group could not find a suitable building and could not find a way of addressing the safety requirements without a large injection of funding. The idea has been put to a number of service providers to see if they can come up with strategies for developing the workshop.



APPENDIX 5

Sample Workshop Program and Facilitators' Instructions



“Ideas” Workshop: Presenters’ Program

10.00 Introduction (15 mins)

Thank everyone for coming and introduce the project team.

Aim of the day:

- To generate ideas for community projects; and
- To come up with some ways to start turning the ideas into realities.

10.15 The Resources of the Latrobe Valley (2 mins)

Introduce the asset-based focus of the project.

People as the Primary Resource (10 mins)

Feedback of the Portrait of Gifts

- Gifts of the Hands — Latrobe Valley as a skilful community
- Gifts of the Heart — Latrobe Valley as a caring community
- Gifts of the Head — Latrobe Valley as a learning community

Physical Resources (8 mins)

Examples of commercial, industrial, open space, public buildings and other physical resources that could potentially be used for community projects.

Business Resources (5 mins)

Contributions by businesses, for example:

- Hazelwood Power’s contribution to the community playground in Morwell
- A restaurant that donates “waste” food to a worm farm
- A pharmacy that provides a pick up and delivery service for pensioners.

Institutional Resources (2 Mins)

Examples of institutional contributions, for example:

- La Trobe Shire Council’s Community Grants Scheme
- State and Federal Government Grant Schemes
- Philanthropic trusts
- Non-monetary forms of support by institutions, like leases on land and buildings.

Summary of Project (3 mins)

- Community Partnering aims to bring people and other resources together for community-based projects

10.45 The Resources of the Latrobe Valley (15 mins)

Fig Tree Community Garden

(see <http://www.rspas.anu.edu.au/ce/stories>)

CERES (see <http://www.ceres.vic.au>)

Octopod (see <http://www.octopod.org.au>)

Community Recycling (see <http://www.crn.org.uk/about.cases.main.html>)

11.00 Introduce Workshop One—Brainstorm of Ideas (15 mins)

Aim of workshop

Rules of brainstorming

Divide into groups and allocate facilitators

11.15 MORNING TEA**11.45 Workshop One—Brainstorm of Ideas** (45 mins)**12.30 LUNCH**

(Facilitators arrange ideas from Workshop One into common themes, ready for Workshop Two)

1.30 Introduce Workshop Two—The Next Step (30 mins)

Overview of the themes and ideas from Workshop One.

Outline potential next steps, for example:

- A workshop at which more information will be presented about other projects based on this idea
- Group meets again to keep working on the idea (decide on a time and venue)
- Decide that no-one in the group wants to pursue the idea further at the moment.

Divide into groups based on people's areas of interest. Allocate facilitators.

2.00 Workshop Session Two (45 mins)

(Facilitators make sure people leave their names and addresses so they receive update sheets)

2.45 Summary (15 mins)

Brief summary from each group reporting on their next step.



APPENDIX 6

Project Newsletters



October '99

Number 1

COMMUNITY PARTNERING UPDATE

Community Garden Get-Together

**Wednesday 20 October 1999,
2.30 - 4.00pm**

**Room 10, Ground Floor,
Latrobe Regional Art Gallery
Building, 138 Commercial
Road, Morwell.**

**Come along to help start
planning the Community
Garden.**



**If you would like to be involved, but can't
make this meeting, contact Yvonne,
Stephen, Leanne or Alan on 5136 9270.**

**Transport available, ring Yvonne,
Stephen, Leanne or Alan, 5136 9270.**

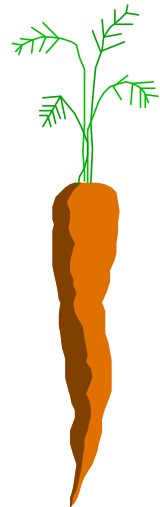
“How To” Workshops

“How To” Workshops were held at Morwell Bowling Club, Friday 8 October, to talk about community gardens and tool sheds.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

A range of community garden ideas were talked about, including:

- Having communal plots to grow food for groups like the Food Bank
- Growing organic vegetables for commercial sale
- Including chooks in the garden
- Recycling water and composting
- Having a hydroponic system
- Using old shipping containers as secure garden sheds.



A highlight of the morning was the talk by Gil Freeman from CERES (Centre for Education & Research in Environmental Strategies) in Brunswick, Melbourne. Gil talked about how CERES was started 20 years ago on an old tip site by 3 volunteers who were concerned about the high levels of unemployment in inner-city Melbourne. CERES is now a non-profit incorporated association with a budget of \$1.6 million. 15 people are employed full-time and another 50 part-time.

CERES includes community gardens, chooks, a worm farm, bees, an animal farm, alternative energy farm, commercial cafe and commercial plant nursery.



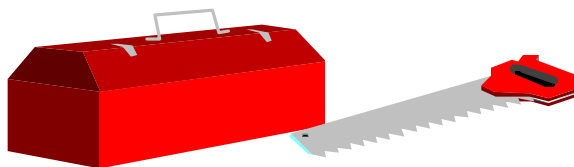
The Community Partnering Project will be visiting CERES. If you would like to come along, call Stephen Lister on 5136 9270.

COMMUNITY TOOL SHEDS

In the afternoon, Joe America from Mornington Peninsula Co-operative talked about the “The Help Service”, which offers household and gardening services for older residents.

Workshop groups then explored ideas for community tool sheds in the La Trobe Shire, including:

- a tool lending library
- a register of skills that people would like to share
- incorporating the tool shed as part of a community garden (come along to the meeting on 20 October to talk more about this idea).



If you would like to be involved in a Community Tool Shed, contact Yvonne Joyce on 5136 9270.

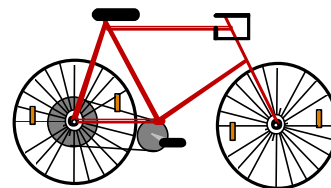
Community Ideas Bank

An “Ideas Workshop” was held at Kernot Hall on Wednesday 6 October to brainstorm the sorts of community-based projects people of the La Trobe Shire are interested in. Ideas are:

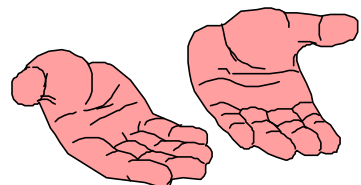
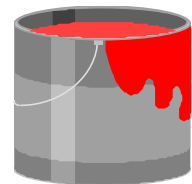
(**Bold type** indicates that there is someone ready to begin working on this idea)

MAKING AND EXCHANGING

- Fixing old bikes and making them roadworthy

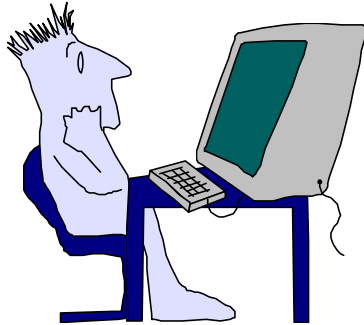


- Tool recycling and lending library
- **Making wooden furniture without power tools (bodging)**
- **Making bush furniture**
- Lawn mowing for elderly people
- Half-used paint exchange
- Sharing boat building skills
- Fixing broken furniture
- Furniture exchange
- Dress pattern exchange
- Fibre and fabric bank
- Sharing garden tools
- Book binding
- Learning exchange that utilises ‘grey power’



- Handyman assistance for the aged
- Inventors' resource centre
- **Community wood workshop**
- **Community telephone service**

- Internet café for youth in small towns
- Youth newspaper
- Community film making workshop



CULTURAL PROJECTS

- Photographic developing room
- Matching social dancers with learners
- **Music festivals and workshops**
- Communal cooking kitchen
- SEC recognition day
- Community bush dances
- Documenting family histories and personal stories
- **Music jam sessions**
- Book reading
- Sheet music/musical instrument exchange
- Collectors' directory
- Street parties
- Matching people who play musical instruments with those who want to start to learn to play music
- Art and beautification projects:

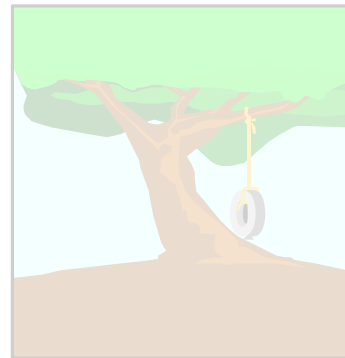


- ◇ Christmas street decorations
- ◇ Murals
- ◇ Painting Spaces
- ◇ Designing Trees

- Family art celebrations between Xmas and New Year

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

- Fixing gardens for elderly or others in need of assistance
- Wetland management
- Cleaning up waterways for children's play



- Revegetation projects
- Recycling demolition materials
- Public bushland care

- Garden produce exchange
- **Community chook yard**
- **Community gardens**
- Collection point for sawdust and manure for community composting
- Water recycling off roofs
- Backyard tank yabbie and fish farming
- Backyard seed banks for native plants
- Register of public open space that could be used for community projects



- Teaching young people bush appreciation
- Recycling station for clean industrial waste to be used by pre-schools, primary schools for art works

OTHER IDEAS WERE FOR:

- Sleep workshop
- Management options for community projects
- Communication and networking projects
- **Street lighting**
- **People's place**
- **Community awareness about mental health issues**

For more information about any of these ideas or the Community Partnering Project contact Yvonne Joyce, Stephen Lister, Leanne Vella or Alan Riley on 5136 9270.

The Community Partnering Project aims to support community based initiatives across the La Trobe Shire. The project is funded for two years (1999 & 2000) by La Trobe Shire, Monash University, Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (Australian Research Council), with support from Australian Paper and Loy Yang Power.



Project Profile

Easy Care Gardening Inc. (ECG Inc.) is a Sydney-based not-for-profit organisation creating low maintenance gardens for people who are frail, aged, or have a disability. ECG Inc. helps people to live in their homes for as long as they can manage.

The group started in 1988 in the northern suburbs of Sydney, an area with an aging population and where the homes and gardens tend to be large. Beginning with 3 volunteers and 25 clients, ECG Inc. now has more than 310 clients who need gardening assistance and 140 who need lawn-mowing. There are 4 full-time staff and more than 150 volunteers, many of whom are older people.

Along with general mowing and gardening



services. ECG Inc. will convert gardens to the easy-care principle. Using mulch and appropriate plants easy-care gardens are low maintenance and require only minimal upkeep.

Clients are charged a small fee that is negotiable. Financial support comes from Home and Community Care (funded by the state and Commonwealth governments). Donations of funds, equipment, assistance and support are also provided by local councils, community clubs, individuals and schools. 200 people have joined as Friends of Easy Care Gardening and have a say in the running of the group.

Source: <http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/ext/casestudy/69.htm>

June 2000

Number 6

COMMUNITY PARTNERING PROJECT

UPDATE

Circus Workshop

with trainers from **Circus Oz**
and **Moscow Circus**

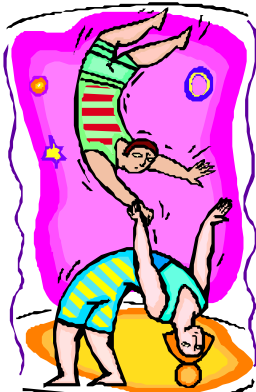


**Training in acrobatics,
stiltwalking, unicycle, devil
sticks, diabolo & more . . . !**

*This workshop is for young
unemployed people.*

Wednesday 21 June, 10am – 4.30pm
**Luke's Place, Princes Highway,
Morwell**

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Ring Leanne 5136 9270 (Mon - Weds),
JPET 5135 3006 or
Luke's Place 5127 6699



Sponsored by:

- ◆ Community Partnering Project
- ◆ GEST JPET
- ◆ Luke's Place

Funded by:

- ◆ School Focussed Youth Service

Community Garden

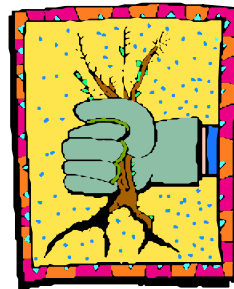
**Working Bee to start
tidying up the site.**

**Old Morwell Caravan Park,
Maryvale Crescent,
Morwell**
**Wednesday June 21,
10am – 4pm.**



Lunch Provided by Latrobe Valley
Community Environmental Gardens
Inc. & Morwell Neighbourhood House
and Learning Centre Inc..

Bring gloves & working boots



If it's raining come for lunch 11am – 2pm
Ground Floor, Latrobe Regional Art Gallery
Building, 138 Commercial Rd, Morwell.

NEWS FLASH

On the morning of the working bee, Morwell Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre Inc. is running a bus trip to Dasma's Material Recovery Centre and Op Shops in Morwell. The bus trip will join the community garden 'working bee' for lunch at 12.30. For more information call Gaylene 5134 5488 (Mon - Weds).

Bus Trip

Kevin Heinze Garden Centre

Kevin Heinze Garden Centre has raised garden beds and other facilities for people with special gardening requirements.

Wednesday 28 June, 9.30am-5pm
(Bring lunch or money for lunch)

Space is limited so ring Leanne or Jenny (5136 Mon, Weds) to book 9270 - Tues,



Sausage Sizzle Fundraisers

Friday 9 June & Friday 16 June
10am – 6pm

Bunnings Warehouse, Mid-Valley

Fundraising for Public Liability and Volunteers Accident Insurance for the community garden.



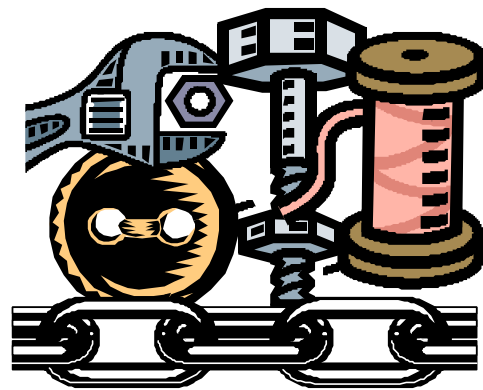
Community Partnering Project is funded by:

Australian Paper

Loy Yang Power

Creative Reuse Centre

Work is now underway to get the creative reuse centre started. The centre will collect off-cuts, rejects, seconds and other “waste” materials from business and industry. The materials will be available for schools, pre-schools, kindergartens, community groups, families and individuals to use in creative and inventive



activities.

The centre will also run workshops like Santa’s Workshop, and Invention and Tinkering Workshops.

Santa’s Workshop



Returning
Aug. – Dec.
2000

Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs - Australian Research 1